

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A communications system, ~~in which data is communicated between comprising:~~

a first information processing apparatus; and

a second information processing apparatus ~~which are~~ interconnected with said first information processing apparatus by a network, whereby data is communicated between first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus; ~~characterized by comprising:~~

said first information processing apparatus including:

a transmission clock counter that counts an internal transmission clock,

generation means that generates, ~~in at a~~ predetermined ~~timeeyele~~, synchronization control data ~~that instructs a reset of the value of a reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock of a second information processing apparatus,~~

transmission means that transmits ~~said the~~ synchronization control data ~~generated by said generation means to said second information processing apparatus, and~~

transmission resetting means that resets the ~~value of said~~ transmission clock counter after immediately upon the transmission of said the synchronization control data ~~by said transmission means is being completed; and~~

said second information processing apparatus including:

a said reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock,

data determining means that determines whether or

not data that is received by said second information processing apparatus is said—the synchronization control data, and

reception resetting means that resets the value of ~~said~~ reception clock counter ~~if said immediately~~ upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data is being determined as said to be the synchronization control data,

the resetting of the transmission clock counter of the first information processing apparatus and the resetting of the reception clock counter of the second information processing apparatus thereby being substantially concurrent by said data determining means.

2. (currently amended) The communications system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that: wherein~~ said transmission clock counter and said reception clock counter count values in the same range.

3. (currently amended) The communications system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that: wherein~~ said first information processing apparatus further comprises counter determining means that determines whether or not ~~the a~~ value of said transmission clock counter becomes zero; ~~wherein and~~ if the value of said transmission clock counter is determined as to become zero by said counter determining means, said transmission means transmits said synchronization control data generated by said generation means to said second information processing apparatus.

4. (currently amended) A communications method in which data is communicated between a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus, which are interconnected by a network, ~~characterized in that: said~~ method comprising:

generating, a communications method of said at the first information processing apparatus, generates synchronization control data; that instructs a reset of the value of a reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock of said second information processing apparatus,

transmittings said—the generated synchronization control data from the first information processing apparatus to said—the second information processing apparatus; and

resettings the value of a transmission clock counter that counts an internal transmission clock after immediately upon the transmission of said—the synchronization control data being is completed; and

determining, a communications method of said at the second information processing apparatus, determines whether or not data that is received by the second information processing apparatus is said—the synchronization control data; and

resettings, the value of said at the second information processing apparatus, a reception clock counter if said—that counts an internal reception clock immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data is—being determined as—said—to be the synchronization control data,

the resetting of the transmission clock counter of the first information processing apparatus and the resetting of the reception clock counter of the second information processing apparatus thereby being substantially concurrent.

5. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving data with another

information processing apparatus connected thereto by a network,  
~~characterized by comprising:~~

a transmission clock counter that counts an internal clock;

generation means that generates, ~~in at~~ a predetermined ~~time~~~~cycle~~, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of ~~the value of a~~ reception clock counter of said another information processing apparatus;

control data transmission means that transmits said the synchronization control data generated by said ~~generation means to said the~~ another information processing apparatus; and

reset means that resets the ~~value of said transmission~~ clock counter ~~after immediately upon the~~ transmission of ~~said the~~ synchronization control data by said transmission ~~means is being~~ completed.

6. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said clock counter counts values of the transmission clock counter are in the same range as said clock counter values of the reception clock counter of said another information processing apparatus.

7. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized by further~~ comprising: counter determining means that determines whether or not ~~the a~~ value of said transmission clock counter becomes zero; wherein if ~~the a~~ value of said transmission clock counter is determined ~~as to become~~ zero by said counter determining means, said control data transmission means transmits said synchronization control data generated by said generation means to said another information processing apparatus.

8. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized by further comprising:~~

adding means that adds to ~~the~~ a header of said data, based on ~~the~~ a value of said clock counter, a counter value indicating the timing at which said another information processing apparatus processes data; and

data transmission means that transmits to said another information processing apparatus said data to which said counter value added by said adding means.

9. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized by further comprising:~~

acquisition means that acquires a counter value, which indicates the timing at which data is processed, added by said another information processing apparatus;

time determining means that determines whether or not ~~the~~ a value of ~~said transmission~~ clock counter reaches said counter value acquired by said acquisition means; and

data processing means that processes said data if ~~said data is determined by~~ said time determining means determines that the value of said transmission clock counter reaches said counter value.

10. (currently amended) An information processing method for transmitting/receiving data ~~with~~ between an first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus connected thereto to each other by a network, ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a generation step that~~ generatinges, at the first information processing apparatus in at a predetermined time eyele, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of ~~the value of~~ a reception clock counter of said second information processing apparatus;

~~a control data transmission step that transmittings~~  
~~said the generated synchronization control data generated~~  
~~by the process of said generation step from the first~~  
~~information processing apparatus to said the second~~  
information processing apparatus; and

~~a resetting, step that resets the value of at the~~  
~~first information processing apparatus, a transmission~~  
clock counter that counts an internal clock after  
~~immediately upon the transmission of the said~~  
synchronization control data by the process of said control  
~~data transmission step is being completed.~~

11. (currently amended) A processor encoded with a  
computer program for causing a computer to execute a process for  
transmitting/receiving data with an information processing  
apparatus connected by a network, ~~characterized by the process~~  
comprising:

~~a generation step that generatinges, at the first~~  
~~information processing apparatus in at a predetermined~~  
~~timeeyele, synchronization control data that instructs a~~  
~~reset of the value of a reception clock counter of said~~  
~~second information processing apparatus;~~

~~a control data transmission step that transmittings~~  
~~said the generated synchronization control data generated~~  
~~by the process of said generation step from the first~~  
~~information processing apparatus to said the second~~  
information processing apparatus; and

~~a resetting, step that resets the value of at the~~  
~~first information processing apparatus, a transmission~~  
clock counter that counts an internal clock after  
~~immediately upon the transmission of the said~~  
synchronization control data by the process of said control  
~~data transmission step is being completed.~~

12. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving data with another information processing apparatus connected thereto by a network, ~~characterized by the apparatus comprising:~~

a first clock counter that counts an internal clock;

data determining means that determines whether or not data that is received from the another information processing apparatus is synchronization control data, which instructs a reset ~~of the value of~~ said first clock counter at the same time as a reset of ~~the value of a~~ second clock counter of said another information processing apparatus; and

reset means that resets ~~the value of~~ said first clock counter ~~if said immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data is being determined as said to be the~~ synchronization control data ~~by said data determining means.~~

13. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ said first clock counter counts values in the same range as said second clock counter of said other information processing apparatus.

14. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized by further comprising, adding means that adds to the~~ wherein a header of said the received data, includes a counter value based on the value of said second clock counter of said other information processing apparatus, ~~a the counter value indicating the timing at which said another information processing apparatus processes the received data, and data transmission means that transmits to said another information processing apparatus said data to which said counter value is added by said adding means.~~

15. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized by further~~ comprising:

acquisition means that acquires a counter value, which indicates ~~the a~~ timing at which data is processed, ~~added by~~ from said another information processing apparatus;

time determining means that determines whether or not ~~the a~~ value of said first clock counter reaches ~~said the~~ counter value ~~acquired by said acquisition means~~; and

data processing means that processes ~~said the~~ received data ~~if said data is determined by when~~ said time determining means determines that the value of said clock counter reaches said counter value.

16. (currently amended) An information processing method, ~~characterized by the method~~ comprising:

counting an internal clock using a first clock counter;

~~a data determining step that determines that determines if whether data that is received from an information processing apparatus is~~ synchronization control data, which instructs, at the same time as a reset of the value ~~of a~~ second clock counter of ~~said the~~ information processing apparatus, a reset of the value ~~of a~~ first clock counter ~~that counts an internal clock~~; and

~~a resetting step that resets the value of said first clock counter if said immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data is being determined as said to be synchronization control data by the process of said data determining step.~~

17. (currently amended) A processor encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute a process for transmitting/receiving with an information apparatus connected thereto by a network, ~~characterized by the process~~ comprising:



counting an internal clock using a first clock counter;

~~a data-determining step that determines that determines if whether data that is received from an information processing apparatus is synchronization control data,~~ which instructs, at the same time as a reset of the value of a second clock counter of said the information processing apparatus, a reset of the value of a first clock counter that counts an internal clock; and

~~a resetting step that resets the value of said first clock counter if said immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data is being determined as said to be synchronization control data by the process of said data-determining step.~~